

It was opportune then, that General Jackson should declare to this generation the truth about the war and what caused it, and who was responsible for the institution of slavery. He did this in a way that can not be controverted, and his great argument should be like a classic in every household.

No, there was no sin in slavery as a patriarchal institution. The sin was in the mode of bringing them here from Africa and afterwards in their hard treatment by some cruel masters—and still later by setting them free without condition, and so continuing a slavery in the chain-gang that is infinitely worse than they or their fathers ever endured before freedom came. The children of those Northern fanatics are still under the delusion that slavery was born and bred at the South, and that the sin is upon us. They do not believe that, as Judge Story said upon the bench, "Their fathers were steeped up to their eye-brows in the infamy of the slave trade"—a trade they could not carry on with money, but had to carry over cargoes of New England rum, one barrel of which would buy a dozen negroes, and a hundred barrels a thousand.

The saints of New England sold these slaves to our forefathers as long as they would buy them, and then sought other markets in South America and began war upon us for keeping them in bondage. They are like the liquor dealer in Nashville who become converted and sold out his stock to another man, and then tried to have him turned out of the church for selling whiskey.

Slavery is no new sin, if a sin at all. It dates back to Abraham and has come down through the nations. England did not free her slaves until 1845, and even then, there was an exception made that lasted till near the close of that century, for the colliers and salters (those who worked in the coal and salt mines) were still held for life, and if the